[*Translation*]

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Orissa

*420. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Orissa where the oil and gas reserves are being explored by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether the latest technology is being used by ONGC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the proposed schemes to expedite the exploration work during the current year with the assistance of foreign and Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) ONGC is not carrying out any exploration in Orissa. However Oil India Limited in exploring in Orissa offshore.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) 5 blocks, i.e. 3 offshore and 2 onshore, in Mahanadi Basin have been offered in the Fourth Round of Bidding for oil and gas exploration.

Shifting of some minerals from control of states

*421. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government sought the opinion of the State Governments for shifting some of the minerals from the control of the States;

(b) if so, the details of the minerals proposed to be removed from the control of the States;

(c) whether the Union Government have since received the opinions of various State Governments;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto particularly in the case of Rajasthan;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to make amendment in the MMR&D Act, 1957;

(f) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Grant and renewal of prospecting licence and mining lease for minor minerals are governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules of respective State Governments whereas grant and renewal of prospecting licence and mining lease for minerals other than minor minerals are governed by Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, both formulated under the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957. There is a proposal to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act in order to exclude building stones except those used locally in an unpolished state for house building and other purposes from the purview of minor minerals. After such an amendment is carried out the Mineral Concession Rules will be applicable for grant and renewal of prospecting licence/mining lease in respect of such minerals.

The opinion of the State Governments and Union Territories on the proposed amendment has been sought.

(c) and (d). While views of some State

Governments and Union Territories have been received, views of some more State Governments and Union Territories are still awaited. Government of Rajasthan have disagreed with the proposal and a reference to that effect has also been received from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The points raised in his letter are under examination.

(e) to (g). No decision has been taken by the Government on the proposed amendment. The views of various State Governments, Union Territories including those of the Government of Rajasthan will be given due consideration while finalising the proposed amendment.

[*English*]

Loading of Wagons from Coalfields

*422. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of wagons loaded (FWW) per day from each Coalfield during 1990-91 and 1991-92 till date;

(b) whether less number of wagons were loaded during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the loading of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHIR P.A. SANGMA): (a) The details of daily average wagon loading in the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. during the year 1990-91 and during April-November, 1991 (Provisional) are given as under:-

(In Four Wheeler Wagons per day)

Name of Coal Company	*1990-91*	*(April to Nov., 1991)*
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1978	1901
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	2129	2317
Central Coalfields Ltd.	2503	2570
Northern Coalfields Ltd	1345	1301
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	3791	4207
Western Coalfields Ltd.	1493	1500
North Eastern Coalfields	90	101
Total Coal India Limited	13329	13897
Singarani Collieries Company Ltd.	1236	1201
Total (CIL + SCCL)	14565	15098